

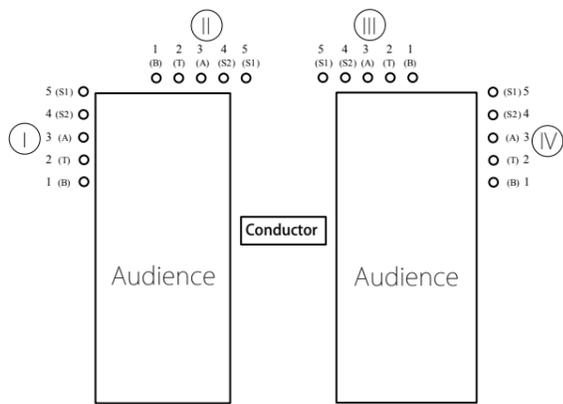
Martin A. Hirsti-Kvam

Sparks (2015)

for 20 singers with flashlights and organ



Placement:



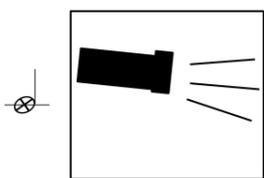
Performance notes:

This is a work that focuses on the relationship between lights and sounds in space, and it is therefore essential that it is performed in a dark hall, with a spotlight on the conductor. Since the singers aren't able to use sheet music in concert, the score is notated using spatial notation where a conductor cues the different entrances of the singers and the organ. It is therefore the conductor who controls the dramaturgy of the piece (conductor's note: the piece should unfold slowly and gradually, and should be allowed to breathe, especially in the beginning: 1st mvt., from letter A to D) In the first movement, the singers only have *one* motive each to learn connected with *one* word. All the number ones start on B flat, the twos on C, threes on D flat, fours on E flat and fives on G. The motives are slightly different variants of the same. The singers are highly encouraged to explore and vary different ways of interpreting their motive, so that the piece doesn't become monotonous.

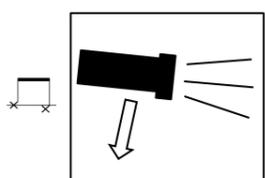
The dashed barlines are only there to help clarify the order of the entrances for the conductor and for score coordination in the rehearsal period.

Light:

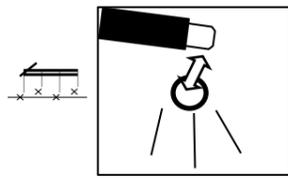
In the first movement, the flashlight part is notated on the small staff beneath each individual part. A note duration equals light, or else the hand should cover the flashlight, so no light escapes. The musical motive corresponds with a simple action with the flashlight, and this motive can occur be with *both* light and sound, with only sound and only with light. There are also a few instances where the sound or light is delayed. The singers should try to compensate for differences in height, so that the flashlights are more or less vertically aligned.



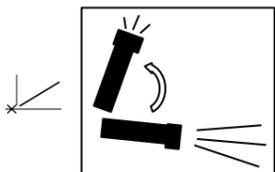
Normal position. The flashlight should point out from the body, a little less than 90 degrees so to not blind the audience completely.



A downward motion from the normal position, so the flashlight points towards the floor.



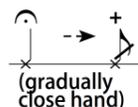
"Blinking": a rapid motion uncovering/covering the light with the hand.



An upward motion from the the normal position, so the flashlight points upwards to light up the face of the singer.



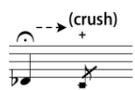
"Flickering": disturb the light stream, with wiggling the fingers in front of the flashlight to create a flickering texture.



Gradually close the open hand around the front of the flashlight, in the manner of grabbing something.

Crescendo: a crescendo over the motive corresponds with a small upwards movement from the normal position to the flashlight pointing directly out from the body, blinding the audience.

Sound:



"Close" the normal tone into a raspy, guttural sound using the throat

Duration: ca. 11 minutes

I

S1 (light)

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light)

un der

look

break

③

②

①

(crush)

(gradually close hand)

(gradually close hand)

④

II

S1 (light)

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light)

fol low

fol low

②

(crush)

(gradually close hand)

⑤

④

④

③

③

②

III

S1 (light)

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light)

in- side

in- side

en

②

(crush)

(gradually close hand)

IV

S1 (light)

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light)

search

search

hear

sing

④

Slow espressivo

pp

p

③

(crush)

(gradually close hand)

C

S1 (light)

S2 (light) ⁴ *mf* close ly ⁴ *pp* close ly (crush)
(gradually close hand)

A (light) ³ *p* un der ³ *mf* un der

T (light) ² *pp* look

B (light) ①

S1 (light)

S2 (light) ⁴ *p* find ⁴ *mp* find (crush)
(gradually close hand)

A (light) ³ *p* be tween

T (light)

B (light)

C

S1 (light)

S2 (light) ⁴ *p* tis ten ⁴ *p* tis ten (crush)
(gradually close hand)

A (light) ³ *p* see

T (light)

B (light)

⑤ *pp* sense

IV

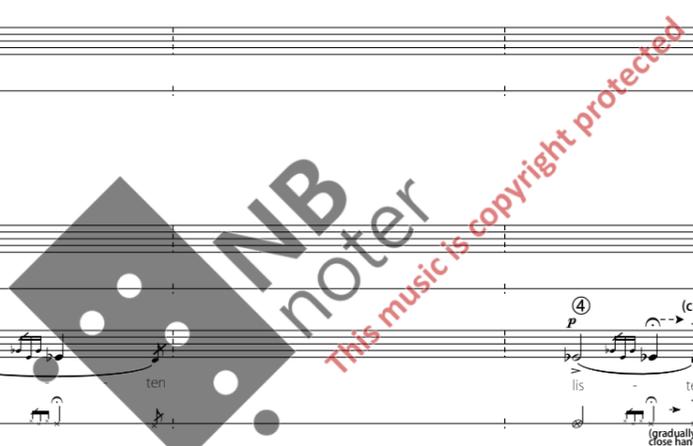
S1 (light)

S2 (light) ⁴ *p* sing ⁴ *pp* sing (crush)
(gradually close hand)

A (light) ³ *p* hear ³ *mf* hear

T (light) ² *pp* search ² *mp* search

B (light) ①



Whole group:
enter together
mf

I

S1 (light) ⑤ D

S2 (light)

A (light) ③ *mp* *mf* un der

T (light) ② *mp* *mf* look

B (light) ① *mp* (sound delayed) break

burst

close

look

break

II

S1 (light) ⑤ take

S2 (light)

A (light) ③ *mp* *mf* be tween

T (light)

B (light) ① *mp* through

take

find

through

III

S1 (light) ⑤ sense

S2 (light)

A (light) ③ see

T (light) ② in side

B (light)

sense

lis ten

see

in side

IV

S1 (light) spark

S2 (light) ④ *mf* *mf* sing

A (light)

T (light) ② *mp* *mf* search

B (light) ① *mp* (sound delayed) seek

spark

sing

hear

search

seek

fp — *ff*

S1 (light) burst

S2 (light) ly close ly

A (light) der un der

T (light) look

B (light) break

⑤ *pp* (light delayed) burst

E

⑤ *pp* (light delayed) burst

pp (only sound)

S1 (light) take

S2 (light) find

A (light) be tween

T (light) fol low

B (light) through

④ *mf* — *f* find

③ *mp* be tween

⑤ (sound delayed) take

(gradually close hand)

(crush)

fp — *ff*

S1 (light) sense

S2 (light) lis ten

A (light) see

T (light) in - side

B (light) through

④ *mf* — *f* lis ten

② *mf* — *f* in - side

⑤ (sound delayed) sense

(gradually close hand)

(crush)

fp — *ff*

S1 (light) spark

S2 (light) sing

A (light) hear

T (light) search

B (light) seek

⑤ *p* (light delayed) spark

④ *p* sing

I

S1 (light) (crush) *pp* ⑤ burst

(gradually close hand)

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light) ①

II

S1 (light) ⑤ (light delayed) *pp* take (crush) ⑤

(gradually close hand)

S2 (light)

A (light) ⑤

T (light)

B (light)

III

S1 (light) ⑤ (light delayed) *pp* sense (crush) ⑤

(gradually close hand)

S2 (light) ④ *pp* lis ten

A (light)

T (light)

B (light)

IV

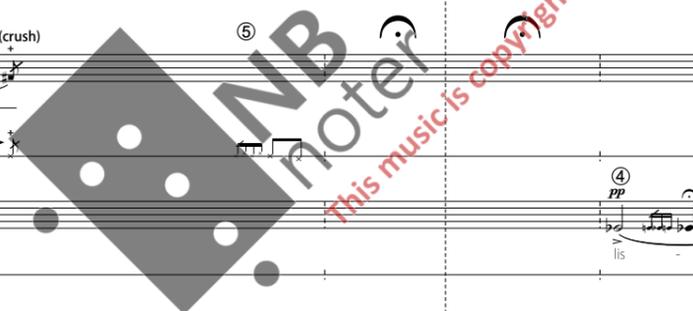
S1 (light) ⑤ (sound delayed) *pp* spark (crush) ⑤

S2 (light)

A (light)

T (light)

B (light) ① *pp* seek



attacca

♩ = ca. 60

Score for Organ and voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with performance instructions.

Section II: Organ and voices. Includes performance instructions: "Flickering" texture (see preface) and "Flickering".

Section III: Organ and voices. Includes performance instructions: "Flickering" texture (see preface) and "Flickering".

Section IV: Organ and voices. Includes performance instructions: "Flickering" texture (see preface) and "Flickering".

Organ part: Includes performance instructions: "Flickering" texture (see preface) and "Flickering".

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The score is divided into five systems, each with a corresponding Roman numeral (I-IV) on the left. Each system contains five staves for lights (S1, S2, A, T, B) and one staff for the Organ (Org.).

- System I:** Light staves show cues for S1, S2, A, T, and B. The Organ staff has a *PPP* marking. A "ca. 12-15 sec." marker is present above the light staves. A "Flickering" cue is indicated for all light staves.
- System II:** Similar to System I, but with musical notation on the Organ staff. A "ca. 12-15 sec." marker is present. A "Flickering" cue is indicated for all light staves.
- System III:** Similar to System I, but with musical notation on the Organ staff. A "ca. 12-15 sec." marker is present. A "Flickering" cue is indicated for all light staves.
- System IV:** Similar to System I, but with musical notation on the Organ staff. A "ca. 12-15 sec." marker is present. A "Flickering" cue is indicated for all light staves.

Additional markings include circled numbers 1-5 on the light staves, a "ca. 12-15 sec." marker with a smiley face icon, and a "Flickering" cue with a box icon. A large watermark "NB noter" and "This music is copyright protected" is overlaid on the score.

B Very slow

Section I: S1 (light), S2 (light), A (light), T (light), B (light). Includes vocal lines with dynamics (pp, mf) and markings (1-5).

Section II: S1 (light), S2, A, T, B. Includes vocal lines with dynamics (pp) and markings (4, 5).

Section III: S1, S2, A (light), T, B. Includes vocal lines with dynamics (pp) and markings (3).

Section IV: S1, S2, A (light), T (light), B. Includes vocal lines with dynamics (pp, mf) and markings (1-5).

Org. (Organ): Includes piano accompaniment for the organ.



Every singer turn on their flashlight in their own time until all lights are on, slowly!

All together:

Light



I

S1

S2

A

T

B

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Every singer turn on their flashlight in their own time until all lights are on, slowly!

All together:

Light



II

S1

S2

A

T

B

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

③ *pp*

② *pp* *mf* *pp*

① *pp*

[m]

[m]

[m]

[m]

[m]

Every singer turn on their flashlight in their own time until all lights are on, slowly!

All together:

Light



III

S1

S2

A

T

B

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

⑤ *pp* *mf* *pp*

④ *pp*

③ *pp*

② *pp*

① *pp*

[m]

[m]

[m]

[m]

[m]

Every singer turn on their flashlight in their own time until all lights are on, slowly!

All together:

Light



IV

S1

S2

A

T

B

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Light

Org.